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Spying is part of Americana, museum backers tell panel

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WASHINGTON — George Washington, a man renowned for his honesty but trained in the British military tradition of deception, used an elaborate network of spies to keep the redcoats off guard during the Revolutionary War.

On several occasions, the revered commander concocted false rumors and had them planted "from Charleston to New York so that the British ... would swallow it hook, line and sinker," Walter Pforzheimer, a retired legislative counsel for the Central Intelligence Agency, said.

"He was a master of psychological warfare," added Pforzheimer, a fervent collector of intelligence documents and memorabilia.

The point, made with scores of such stories, is that intelligence has always been an integral part of American history — handed down, with many other pursuits of government, from the founding fathers.

"To me," Pforzheimer said, "the American Revolution was a dandy intelligence war."

Pforzheimer, other veterans of intelligence and military service and a handful of intelligence historians want to create a National Historical Intelligence Museum in Washington. Earlier this month they took their case to Congress.

The country's spy master, William Casey, director of central intelligence, endorsed the project as "highly important."

But he said at a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing, "I would not want to mislead anyone into expecting us to be a major source of exhibits."

"What the CIA can contribute will almost certainly be quite limited. We do not have many objects or artifacts that could be exhibited in a museum. We mainly produce paper."

Much of the paper, he might have added, contains information deemed unsuitable for public viewing.

Despite such restrictions, Casey and other supporters of a museum say it would fill a void in the capital's vast but incomplete historical treasures. It would, they say, commemorate largely unheralded deeds of valor by espionage agents throughout American history. In addition, it would help improve the public's perception of intelligence services, tarnished by the abuses disclosed in the wake of the Watergate scandal of the Nixon Administration, the supporters add.

Such a museum, its backers say, would inspire young men and women to join the CIA, the National Security Agency and the Defense Intelligence Agency.

"Think of the impact on kids, who are so fond of gadgetry and the kinds of exhibits that might be mounted," said Pforzheimer, who has willed his 5,000-document collection to Yale University, his alma mater. He said he and others might lend personal holdings to rotating exhibits at a national museum.

A Senate resolution, sponsored by Intelligence Committee Chairman Barry Goldwater (R., Ariz.), calls for the "collection, preservation and exhibition" of intelligence artifacts in a museum. Although some supporters, Pforzheimer included, envision a great public attraction based chiefly on remnants of historic espionage, others empha-

size complementary exhibits highlighting tales of spying.

Some of the great personalities of intelligence past:

- Thomas Jefferson, better known for other achievements. Sometime before he became President in 1801, Jefferson designed a "wheel cypher," a simple but ingenious coding device. Jefferson filed and apparently forgot the invention, but in 1922 the Army "re-invented" it independently as the M94, a version of which was used by the Navy until the 1950s.

- Rose O'Neal Greenhow, an intimate of President James Buchanan, Cabinet members and senators, an inveterate spy for the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Put

under house arrest with other pro-secession women accused of espionage, she continued to send Southern Gen. Pierre Gustave Beauregard information on troop movements until she was finally thrown into Washington's central prison.

- Onetime Boston Red Sox catcher Mo Berg, who mastered half a dozen languages and became a trusted aide to the William J. (Wild Bill) Donovan at the Office of Strategic Services during World War II.

- Cookbook author and television chef Julia Child, who encountered Oriental and French culinary influences while serving as a World War II archivist at the main OSS headquarters in China.

- Former editor of Foreign Affairs and Undersecretary of State William Bundy, who headed a code-breaking unit in England that dissected the Nazi cipher machine "Enigma" until the war's end.

To be sure, the graying men be-

hind the museum project have a wealth of their own stories to tell. By oath and by law, however, most of those stories are bound to secrecy. But few of the men perceive secrecy rules as a hurdle for a museum, meant to emphasize the historical development of intelligence operations.

The organization coordinating the museum drive is the National Historical Intelligence Museum Association, a group made up largely of former intelligence officials. President of the association is Martin Cramer, a veteran of the CIA, State Department and U.S. Information Agency. Former CIA Director William Colby is a board member.

The association is seeking \$2 million from individuals, foundations and other grant-making organizations. One site mentioned at the Senate hearing is a wing of the Smithsonian Institution now being renovated.